

## Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-10

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OMB-01 /076 W

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R 170450Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2597

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

CINCPAC

UNCLAS SINGAPORE 2091

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SN ASEAN

SUBJECT: RAJARATNAM COMMENTS ON ASEAN SUMMIT MEETING AND  
RECONGITION OF NEW REGIMES IN INDOCHINA

1. STRAITS TIMES MAY 17 CARRIED DESPATCH FROM ITS SPECIAL  
CORRESPONDENT, P. RAMAN, SETTING FORTH FOREIGN MINISTER  
RAJARATNAM'S COMMENTS AND VIEWS ON FOLLOWING MATTERS  
DISCUSSED AT THE ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING:

A) SUMMIT MEETING: RAJARATNAM CLAIMED SINGAPORE  
WAS NOT OPPOSED TO A SUMMIT MEETING OF ASEAN HEADS OF  
GOVERNMENT BUT FELT THERE SHOULD BE SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS,  
OTHER THAN INDOCHINA, FOR DISCUSSION BEFORE SCHEDULING  
A SUMMIT MEETING. RAJA SAID HE AGREED WITH PHILIPPINE  
FORNSEC ROMULO THAT "THE HOLDING OF A SUMMIT SOLELY  
BECAUSE OF THE INDOCHINA SITUATION WILL BE MISUNDERSTOOD".

B) RECOGNITION OF PRG AND GRUNK: REGARDING  
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RECOGNITION OF NEW INDOCHINESE REGIMES, RAJA SAID  
SINGAPORE WANTED TO GRANT DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION  
BUT ADDED "WE DON'T KNOW WHOM TO RECOGNIZE. WE JUST  
WANT TO SEE WHO WILL BE IN AUTHORITY IN SAIGON, IN

SIX MONTHS." GOS HAD RECOGNIZED GRUNK, BUT "WHO IS THE FOREIGN MINISTER?" REFERRING PRESUMABLY TO THE COMMUNIQUE RAJA NOTED THAT ASEAN HAD ALREADY EXTENDED THE HAND OF FRIENDSHIP TO THE NEW INDOCHINESE REGIMES.

C) GREAT POWER PRESENCE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA: RAJA REITERATED OLD THEME THAT IT WAS "EASIER" FOR GOS IF SEVERAL GREAT POWERS WERE COMPETING IN THE SEA AREA AND WELCOMED PEACEFUL COMPETITION, SUCH AS HELP IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AMONG THE GREAT POWERS. RAJA INCLUDED CHINA WHEN SPEAKING OF GREAT POWERS.

D) PRC SUPPORT FOR COMMUNIST PARTY OF MALAYA: SPEAKING SEPARATELY ON PRC BROADCASTS EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF MALAYA, RAJA SAID "THE BROADCASTS DO NOT BOTHER US" AND HE SAW NO PARTICULAR CONTRADICTION IN THE PRC SUPPORTING LOCAL COMMUNIST PARTIES WHILE TRYING TO MAINTAIN CORRECT GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT RELATIONS. HE NOTED THAT DEALING WITH INTERNAL COMMUNISM WITHIN A COUNTRY DID NOT MEAN FIGHTING CHINA; ONLY IF CHINA PROTESTED THE ARREST OF LOCAL COMMUNISTS WOULD CHINA BE GUILTY OF INTERFERING IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ANOTHER COUNTRY.

D) MAYAQUEZ INCIDENT: RAJA SAID THE THAI FOREIGN MINISTER HAD SAID AMERICAN ACTIONS HAD EMBARRASSED THAILAND AND HAD MADE IT DIFFICULT FOR IT TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH INDOCHINESE REGIMES. HE COMMENTED THAT CAMBODIA DID WHAT IT HAD TO DO AND THE UNITED STATES DID WHAT IT HAD TO DO. "WE UNDERSTAND THE THAIS' PREDICAMENT."  
CRONK

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**To:** STATE INFO KUALA LUMPUR  
JAKARTA  
MANILA  
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